Fierce Fire in The Evening Star Building.

IMMENSE VOLUMES OF SMOKE

Blind the Printers in Their Efforts to Get Out.

MANY NARROW ESCAPES.

THE STAR STILL SHINES

Shortly before 9 o'clock this morning a fire started in the basement of THE EVENING STAR building and in less than half an hour the rear portion of the structure, from the business office to the extreme northern end of the edifice and from the basement to the roof was wrecked. No lives were lost, but there were many narrow escapes. The fire created intense excitement and during the morning Pennsylvania avenue in the vicinity of THE STAR office was crowded by thousands of people.

At the time the fire started the employes of THE STAR had already commenced the work of the day to bring out the paper. Every man was at his post, attending to his share of the complicated undertaking of preparing a great newspaper for publication. The editors had sent out "copy" to the composing room to start the corps of compositors clicking the lit-tle types into the "sticks." The reporters were receiving their assignments from the city editor before starting on their rounds to sweep the city, the departments and the Capitol of

In the press-room the foreman in charge of the STAR's three great presses, with his force of eight assistants was oiling and cleaning the presses, getting out the immense rolls of paper and doing the little odds and ends of work necessary to prepare the machinery for its later

In the basement of the building the fireman who feeds the immense boilers was busying himself about the engine with his back turned to the boiler. It is his duty to keep the engine clean. The boiler is located in the extreme northwest corner of the basement.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE. At this moment, George Armstead, a young

colored man employed in the building, came in with an immense bundle of waste paper. It is customary to burn the refuse which accumulates around the building. He opened the furnace doors and shoved the mass inside. "I couldn't get the door closed," he afterward explained, "and I thought Dougherty,

the engineer, was coming, so I left it." Gibson, the fireman, claims that Armstead left the paper on the floor near the furnace

In less than a minute after Armstead passed out the fireman, who was oiling the machinery, heard a crackling and turned around.

The woodwork and ceiling of the whole room near the boiler was in a blaze, which was being rapidly obscured in a great cloud of smoke. Gibson threw a bucket of water on the woodwork, but, realizing the extent of the danger, ran upstairs into the press room shouting THE ALARM GIVEN.

But the presence of the flames had been made known before he reached the top of the

steps.

Tom Harlow had been working on No. 8 press, which was situated just above the boiler. While cleaning it he saw a cloud of smoke pour up by the window and heard the crackle fames underneath.

He did not stop to investigate, but dashed through the room, crying fire as he ran. Then out of the building he sped across Pennsylvania avenue to No. 2 engine house.

"THE STAR office is on fire," he shouted.

A fireman sprang to a rope and gave a clang on a big bell on the wall. Down the brass pole from the rooms above came the firemen. The horses' stall doors flew open, the four magnificent annimals dashed out and took their places under the suspended harness. The firemen had clambered into their seats on the engine and hose reel, and as the front doors of the engine house opened the machines rumbled away on their mission of help. As they turned out of D street the foreman

saw a great cloud of dark smoke rolling high above THE STAR buildings. It seemed as if the whole center of the block

was afire. The station-keeper saw it too and turned in the alarm from the box at the engine No. 2 engine took station at the corner of

11th and Pennsylvania avenue. The hose was carried along the Eleventh

street front and run into the press-room. PERIL OF THE PRINTERS.

It seemed ages before the first truck-Truck C-arrived. Men were clambering down improvised ladders, and the crowd was cheering and admonishing them to hold on. Smoke poured from all the windows, and the printers crowded into them to escape suffocation. Es-



CLIMBING TO JUDD AND DETWEILER'S ROOF. cape by the stairway was cut off, and they all turned to the windows, and were only prevented from jumping by the presence of mind of one the employes of Judd & Detweiler's | nti office, who climbed on the roof and ran . iadder to the extreme north window on the 11th street side. It was a perilous means of escape, but the frightened and half suffocated printers took their chances and escaped one by one, while the crowd below cheered. Just then truck C arrived. It seemed as though fully ten minutes had claused since the alarm was turned in before the ladder-laden equipage appeared. A sectional ladder was run up from the sidewalk to the composing room and those who re-

mained were taken out. PIREMEN PIONTING THE PLAMES. Chief Parris was one of the first to arrive. He was joined soon after the general alarm had been sounded by his two lieutenants, Assistants Chiefs Belt and Lowe, and the regular plan of fighting the fire was mapped out. It took but a second for the chief to grasp the situation, and he directed engine companies 6, 2, 4, 3 and 8 to attack the fire from the 11th street side and sent companies 1, 5 and 7 to fight it from the rear.

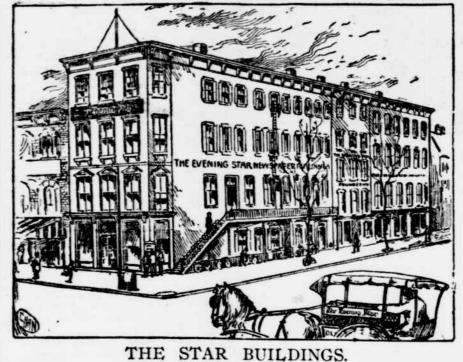
The Evening Star.



Vol. 80, No. 20,233,

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1892.

TWO CENTS.



The fire seemed the fiercest in the new wing | who had congregated in the streets, were lookin the rear, and when No. 5 company reached the roof of Galt & Co.'s jewelry store the entire back building was a mass of flames.

The firemen lost no time in running their hose to the rear, and soon three big streams were playing in the room where only fifteen minutes before upwards of seventy-five printers were setting the news of the day.

EVERYBODY AT WORK.

Foreman Maddox of engine company No. 2 was the first to arrive, he being on hand as soon as the alarm had been sounded. Every man in the service did his utmost, but the task of saving the building was a difficult one. Half suffocated by smoke they fought every inch of the way up the stairs, and there they stayed until the last spark had been smothered,

Thomas Fitzgerald of the water department did yeoman service. He was at the District building when the alarm sounded, and, knowing the box was in the vicinity of THE STAR building, hastened at once to the big valves and in a moment turned the entire supply of formed by Messrs. Clements and Shields the 48-inch main into service. The result was an abundance of water.

Major Moore was also among the first arrivals and with a big reserve from the several station houses soon had the street roped.

At this time it is impossible to estimate the loss to The Star. It is, however, covered by ample insurance in home and foreign companies.

THOSE IN THE GREATEST DANGER The men in the composing room were in the greatest danger, and for a short time it seemed as though several of them would either suffocate from the dense volumes of smoke that



RESCUING THE PRINTERS. poured in through the doors and windows, or be compelled to jump from the fourth story burning. Presently the smoke came in such window to the sidewalk below, in which event volumes that he knew there was something death or cruel mutilation would have been almost a certainty.

There were between seventy and eighty men in the composing room at the time, and the best order possible prevailed and prevented men from being knocked down the steps or trampled over by others.

"Take your time gentlemen," was the warning given by one of the compositors. "There's plenty of it." Just then the men filed out one by one, an

got beyond the danger line. All this time the smoke was pouring into the room and the atmosphere soon became so dense that the men who were in the rear found

some difficulty in finding an opening through which they could reach either of the numerous stairways. Several of the men were finally cut off from the corridors and they had to seek the windows opening on the Eleventh street side, and

there they stood while the hundreds of persons on the street below prayed and gesticulated and shouted "don't jump." SOME NARROW ESCAPES. Thomas Faulkner and John Dripps were

first of those caught in the smoke to get out and they did so by climbing to the roof and then using the fire escape. Mr. Joseph Harris, assistant foreman of the composing room, was still in the room and

with him were Messrs. William G. Collins, Julian Wright, Arthur Campbell, Thos. J. Clements and "Kid" Shields. The two last managed to climb down the window to the roof of Judd & Detweiler's building and there they did noble work rescu-

ing their companions. Thos, Mitchell and Arthur Campbell were nearly suffocated by the smoke and they were probably in worse condition than the others. FOR GOD'S SAKE DON'T LEAVE ME!

Newton Croggan was the last one to get out of the composing room. When the other compositors had either reached the ground or the roof of Judd & Detweiler's building, he was left in the room with the colored messenger boy, named Curtis.

They were both near the window and the smoke having cut off every other avenue of escape, the bewildered boy did not know which way to move, and, turning to the compositor, he said: "Mr. Croggin, don't let me stay here," The latter did not think the boy had made his appeal with any degree of seriousness, but when the little fellow looked up at him and said: "For God's sake, Mr. Croggin, don't leave me," the latter realized that the boy's piteous appeal was in earnest, and before look ing out for himself he saved the boy by hand ing him through the window to the rescuers

building.
While these scenes were being enacted on the fourth floor the several thousand persons, the paper, but realized that the fire had too or no danger.

who had remained on Judd & Detweiler's

ing in almost breathless silence at what was

happening on the floor below.

MAURICE JOYCE'S CLOSE CALL. Mr. Maurice Joyce, the engraver, occupied that floor, and like many of the printers he remained in his office until he had to resort to the window as the only avenue of escape. He had been almost overcome by the intense beat and smoke, and when he appeared in sight of the trembling spectators he straddled the win dow as though getting ready to make a leap for

Bob Joyce, his son, was standing beneath him, and in tones that were heartrending he appealed to the bystanders for help and called to one whom he was afraid would lose his life 'Father, for God's sake, don't jump."

His appeals in both directions were answered and assistance reached his father before he was forced to let go the window facings and fall to the sidewalk.

MR. BICKSLER RESCUED. A remarkable rescue and brave act was per-



JUST IN TIME. After they had been rescued they discovered that Mr. T. J. Bicksler, the STAR's zinc etcher, was in a dangerous position. In going from one place to another he had been cut off by the smoke, and the compositors mentioned procured a long ladder and succeeded in getting him from the third-story window to the heavy cornice above the lower doors and from there they succeeded in getting him to the sidewalk

Mr. T. J. Bicksler, speaking of his narrow escape, said to a reporter that he was on the second floor of the rear building in the old stereotype room when he noticed the smoke rushing through the hole in the floor where the machine belts come through, and he sent one of the boys to see if the building was wrong and he started out. His bicycle was in another part of the building and he thought he had plenty of time to save that. Passing from one room to another he soon discovered that the doors behind him had been closed, and that the smoke in front was so dense that it was impossible for him to go further. He then knew that his bicycle was beyond reach, and he turned to retrace his footsteps, but was unable to do so, owing to the closed door and the smoke. There he was in less than sixty seconds fully fifty men had in a thick cloud of smoke, and when he reached the window he was nearly suffocated. A BOY'S PRESENCE OF MIND.

C. F. Scott, an apprentice boy in Judd & Detweiler's, had presence of mind enough to aid in rescuing the compositors as soon as he say



them at the window apparently unable to get out of the building any other way. He climbed the ladder leading to the skylight and pulled the ladder to the roof after him. A couple of men from THE STAR had already reached the roof and the combined weight of the men on one end of the ladder held the other end secure while the men climbed from the burning building to Judd & Detweiler's roof.

PRESSMAN TRAVERS' STATEMENT. W. R. Travers, superintendent of the press room, said, after the fire was over: "Gibson hadn't more than got upstairs and announced the fire before the press room was filled with smoke. We had to hustle te get out. A man who was putting on his shoes had to drop them and run. A man ran over to the engine house to give the alarm. In less time than it takes to tell it, almost, the fire was roaring up through the back of the press room."

Edward Gibson, the man who was working near the boiler, said: "When I turned around and saw the fire it was raging in the paper which Armstead had

much of a start of me, so I ran upstairs to give

Tom Harlow, the boy whose presence of mind resulted in the early notification of the fire department, said: "When I saw the smoke I slid down off the press where I was working and skipped out through the press room crying fire. I kept on over to the engine house and press room. That didn't take long, but when got back to THE STAR building the whole ear end was on fire." SCENES AND INCIDENTS.

Within five minutes after the fire started a crowd of several hundred people had gathered around the buildings, and in a little time this number was augmented until it reached thousands. It was an orderly crowd, and stood outside the fire-lines roped off by the policemen.

The only excitement that occurred was caused by the appearance of several men at the upper windows of the burning building who seemed about to jump to the pavement below. The crowd rushed forward in horror, shouting to them not to jump. For a few moments there was considerable excitement, and when the men finally escaped a great shout went up.

When it became evident that a disastrous fire was impending four reporters were called into the city editor's room and directed to make a story of the occurrence. Each man was given a portion of the descriptive work The reporters coolly noted the progress of



clambered around with the firemen through the smoke and water. The artist leaned carelessly against a tree making sketches and two men with kodaks watched favorable opportunities to get snap shots of scenes.

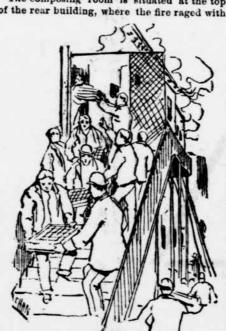
As each reporter collected material for his story he returned to that portion of the building where the fire had not reached and sat down to write his part of the account. By 11 o'clock every man had gone out to attend to his regular daily assignments.

IN THE COMPOSING ROOM.

AN EXCITING TIME AMONG THE PRINTERS-MANY NARROW ESCAPES.

There were exciting times in the composing room immediately after the fire got a good start. The room was filled with compositors hard at work at their cases setting up early morning copy and within five minutes after the ire was discovered the room was filled with a dense suffocating smoke, followed immediately by crackling flames. That lives were not lost in this portion of the building is something remarkable and is due in a large degree to the colness which seems to have been universally displayed by the men. There were narrow escapes, however, and several men approached very closely death's door.

The composing room is situated at the top

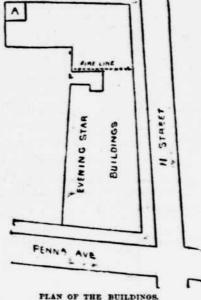


REMOVING THE TYPE FROM STORE BOOM. he greatest violence, and seemed to be the especial point of attack, for the immense volames of smoke which rolled up and through every passage way and window, and especially came up as through a chimney from the area way between the burning building and the rear of the Palais Royal. The smoke first made its appearance through the windows facing on his area way and the first alarm to the printers came from Mr. C. P. Boss, whose case is close by this window. Five minutes after the roor was filled with dense, stiffing smoke and the men were escaping rapidly and in most case coolly down the stairs. SOME WERE TOO CALM.

A number of men, however, did not succeed in getting down the stairs. Several men were probably a little too calm and considered the langer only slight. However, the smoke filled the room in a marvellous short space of time. Mr. T. A. Mitchell had the narrowest escape, being nearly suffocated several times and only escaping finally by means of a ladder run up to one of the windows by the fire department. Four other men, T. R. Faulkner, J. H. Dripps, Wm. M. McCullom and Joseph Hamaker also had narrow escapes, being forced by the smoke to ascend to the roof, and after extreme difficulty escaped by a fire-escape ladder. Five others had a narrow thing of it, only reaching the roof of the adjoining building (Judd & Detweiler's) by a ladder placed from the projecting roof to one of the windows. The men were W. G. Collins, W. N Croggon, Sam. Edmunds, Julian Wright and G. M. Mohler, and a small colored boy, Lloyd Curtis, who was saved from suffocation in the front of the room by W. N. Croggon, The man who placed the short ladder from the adjoining roof to the window deserves great credit for his presence of mind, as he probably saved several lives.

Talks with a number of the compositors who experienced the full force of the danger of losing their lives through suffocation show that left near the door and seemed to have caught | most of the men considered that the alarm was the whole room. I threw a bucket of water on a false one or that at any rate there was little MR. MITCHELL'S STORY.

said Mr. T. A. Mitchell, who had the closest shave. "When the cry of fire was raised I went forward, thinking there was little danger. The room, however, immediately filled with dense smoke and I went back to my case for my clothes and in starting again fell several times. told them about it and then ran back to the I finally reached a window on the east side, where several men were escaping over the roof. The smoke was stifling by this time, and I was almost overcome. I am troubled with rheumatism and could not escape by the roof, and was so



PLAN OF THE BUILDINGS

MR. FAULKNER'S CLOSE SHAVE. and the fire escape. "Yes, we had a close shave," said Mr. Faulkner. "My case is by a window looking into the court between the office and the Palais Royal. There is always smoke coming up through this court from the engines, and at first I did not pay much attention to it this morning. Mr. Boss, however, saw flames and yelled fire and everything was moving at once. I did not think there was much or any danger and put on my clothes. When I started to get out however, the smoke was rolling in dense columns up the staircase and exit was shut off. Some of us thought of the trap door to the roof and after fighting through the smoke, which was something terrible by this time, we found the ladder and managed to get the trap door open and reached the roof. It was a close shave as the flames were in the room, although the smoke was the great danger. On the roof also it was terrible and it was a hard fight to get to the fire escape and get down."

"The smoke was the worst I ever saw," said Mr. J. H. Dripps. My case faces south and when the alarm was given I went to the front to yell down the pipe, giving the alarm down stairs. The smoke was pouring in the windows and when I started to get out was so dense on the stairs that I almost fainted. I fought my way back and could hear the crackling of the flames. Finally, after being nearly overcome. I reached the roof by the trap door and went down the fire escape."

W. G. Collins was one of the men who escaped by means of a ladder from the projecting roof of the adjoining building to the north window of the composing room. "I did not hurry," said Mr. Collins, "when the alarm was given and shortly after going to the windows to look out found myself in a pretty bad way. The smoke was fairly suffocating and there seemed no way of moving in any direction. I tried first to fight my way to the ladder which had been run up through the trap-door, but could not make it. Finally I reached a window and thought at first of throwing myself towards the projecting roof of Judd & Detweiller's building. It would have been almost sure death however and when some man run a ladder from the roof to the window so that by standing on the sill you could reach his outstretched hand and step across it was a tremendous relief. I don't know who the man was who put the ladder across, but he saved

means, after in all probability saving the life of a young colored boy. "When I started out." said Mr. Croggon, the egress was blocked with smoke and I moved back. By the proof room I found Lloyd Curtis, a young colored boy, in a pitiable condition of fright and suffocation. I managed to get him to the window and we both finally reached the cornice of the adjoining seriously. building." Nearly all of the compositors, even those who

did not have to climb over roofs or down fire escapes, suffered some loss of property. Overcoats and coats and vests were lost in large quantities, and many of the men escaped only with their working clothes, leaving hats, coats, and in a number of cases considerable sums of money to help to feed the flames. IN THE MAILING BOOM.

Mr. Findlay Harris, who has under his su ment, began as soon as the alarm sounded at once to remove valuable papers, subscription lists, books, &c., from the mailing room, and had nearly secured all that was essentially necessary when the flames, which had been push ing their way from the west end of the room, rolled over along the ceiling and whirled down to the front almost enveloping the entire room.

Mr. Harris fell on his hands and feet and crawled out safely, having merely had his eyebrows, eyelashes and mustache singed. All of the back numbers of the paper and files of ad vertisements, &c., to date, some of the mailing apparatus and quite a number of articles stored in the mailing rooms were lost. The type of the mailing lists in gallies was badly shaken up, but can be soon rearranged for service. IN THE ADVERTISING BUREAU. For considerable time it was an open que

vertising matter in the country was totally destroyed—that of Mr. William A. Hunger-ford's, in charge of The Star's "bureau of advertising writing." Mr. Clarence Archibald of the bureau had just sent into the composing of the bureau had just sent into the composing room the matter for about tweaty-five advertisements prepared by the "bureau" the day before, which instead of going into type went up into smoke with the rest of the news and advertising copy. Mr. Hungerford, Mr. Miller and Mr. Archibald immediately set to work to remove the desks, encyclopædias, scrap books, "novelty" advertising books, clippings, electrotypes, &c., and it is thought at this writing that the major part of the bureau's effects will be saved. Mr. Hungerford immediately established temporary quarters on the second floor of The STAR office amid the chaos and set to work to

day, January 29, 1885, fire broke out very near the same place where today's conflagration started, and which ultimately gutted the en-tire rear portion of the building. The damage then done was probably more considerable than that resulting from this morning's disaster. The press room was entirely weeked, one than that resulting from this morning's disaster. The press room was entirely wrecked; one press was entirely destroyed and the other was very badly damaged. The engine and engine room were also rendered temporarily useless. A clean sweep was made in the stereotyping room; all the matrices and plates in stock being entirely destroyed. In the composing room there was but little material which had not been rendered entirely useless. In spite of the disaster the paper made its regular appearance that afternoon. The type was set in the ance that afternoon. The type was set in the office of Messrs. Judd & Detweiler and the paper was printed, by courtesy of Mr. George E. Lemon, on the fast press used in the National Tribune office.

AMONG THE RUINS. DIFFICULT TO AT PRESENT MAKE AN ESTIMATE

OF THE LOSS. Estimates as to the money value of the dam age done vary considerably and until the in-

surance experts have come to their conclusions no definite amount can be stated. The appearance of the wrecked portion of the building would be disheartening to others than men of courage and enterprise. Although the engine room is filled with blackened rubbish it is believed that neither

engine nor boilers are really injured. The press room looks as though it had first been burned and then used as a conduit through which the muddiest sort of Potomac water had been forced. Those great machines-

three of the finest presses in the countrywhich have been admired by thousands of people, are blackened, dirt-clogged and, in places, already rusty. Smeared over much of the finely finished mechanism is the composition which was melted off the roller stocks. From the once superheated but now soaked rolls of paper, in place and ready for use, steam was steadily arising to a ceiling which consisted principally of charred rafters and a few blackened and depending laths. THE PAPER WARE HOUSE.

In the paper ware house, where several thousands of dollars worth of paper was stored, were burned-out rolls, much moisture and an aspect of utter destruction.

There had been a trifle of fire in the old stereotype room on the second floor, used now by the etcher and his assistants for a portion of their work. A great heap of charred rubbish was piled up on the floor near the elevator, having tumbled down through the shaft. Iron flooring probably saved this section of the building from destruction. On this iron floor the water dripped copiously.

In the mailing room immediately above nothing was saved except the mailing lists. Covering the floor, where there is a floor, is the mortar and laths and the other stuff which makes up fire debris. Thousands of copies of THE STAR, stored there for the accommodation of people who want papers of more or less remote dates, were destroyed. Many books of reference were kept there also, but they all went out of existence.

The floor of the stereotyping room-in the scrap of the wood work is charred. The rafters are nearly all down and the rear half of the roof is on the floor. The machinery is not of a character easily damaged and the probabilities are that cleaning will put it right.

THE COMPOSING ROOM. A picture of destruction is the composing room. At 8:30 this morning it was the finest composing room in this region; it is now blackened and thoroughly destroyed. The roof at the western end fell in and in several other places it was torn open by the firemen. The composing frames were saved, because they are made of iron, but the wood work is gone. Charred fragments of galley racks, half-burned cases and lumps of fused type metal compose the floor, which rests on girders that suffered severely from the flames. A network of gas piping made locomotion difficult and dangerous,

Mr. Maurice Joyce's establishment, which is on the floor below the composing room, suffered only from water. The fire ate up a couple of window sashes, but that was all. Mr. Joyce will be ready for business in a day or In the room beneath Mr. Joyce's floor the

Linotype Company had a number of machines.

These have not been operated for several months past, so only a watchman was scared by the sudden outburst of flame which shot up through the flooring at the western end of the room. Water did a good deal of harm, too. FIREMEN INJURED. Fireman Rhinehart of engine No. 2 got his foot seriously cut with an axe, and Fireman

Brill of the same company got his eye injured from having a full stream of water strike him in the face. Neither accident will result very

TO ADVERTISERS

All advertising copy which was received at THE STAR office yesterday evening and prior to the fire this morning was destroyed. The senders of those advertisements will secure publication by providing this paper with duplications of the copy. If delired money will be NO INTERRUPTION OF ISSUE.

The publication of THE STAR will continue without interruption and in a few days it is expected that the operations incident to publication will all be conducted within THE STAR building. An ample force of men, superintended by Mr. Fred Pilling, was at work before noon engaged in remoiving the enormous quantities of debris and preparing for the necessary reparative operations.

Even the intense heat which for a time pos

sessed the press room had no effect upon the working of a clock which is suspended near the 11th street front of the room. The glass on the face was blackened and the outward appearance of the timepiece has been spoiled, but its tick was uninterrupted.

COL GEORGE L. ANDREWS, 25th Infantry has been ordered home to await retirement. SECRETARY ELRINS has returned from New York, and was at the War Department to-day. LAUNCHING OF THE BANCROFT.

It is expected that the United States practice vessel for the Naval Academy will be launched on the 30th of this month at Elizabethport, N. J. The ship will be named the Bancroft, in honor of Historian Bancroft, who is said to have been the originator of the establishment of the Naval Academy.

A burning Evening STAR was visible in the

Our Congressional Committee is now in Boston investigating the "Sweating" System, and in July and August the Committee of the whole House will be at it in Washington.

Telegraphic News

WILL TELL ITS HISTORY

AN IMPORTANT PUBLICATION AUTHORIZED BY THE

MORMON CHURCH. INDEPENDENCE, Mo., April 13 .- The Mormon elders in attendance upon the international conference of the reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints again administered to the sick yesterday at the Mormon Temple by anointing with oil and the laying on of hands. The number who desired the treatment was fully as large as the day before, and the basefully as large as the day before, and the base-ment of the temple where the ceremony was performed was crowded. At the business ses-sion of the conference a resolution was adopted providing for the publication of a history of the church to be placed on sale at the world's fair. Very little other business was trans-acted. The conference will adjourn some time this work this week.

SUSPICIOUS FLAMES.

FIRE BROKE OUT IN THE CITY HALL AT JERSET CITY THIS MORNIN

JERSEY CITY, N. J., April 13 .- A fire occurred shortly after 1 o'clock this morning in the City Hall, while a great crowd still waited about the building to hear the result of the charter election. The firemen, when they arrived, found the flames burning fiercely in the second story, but they soon had the fire extinguished. Great but they soon had the fire extinguished. Great excitement prevailed among the large number of persons who witnessed the fire and many of them, on account of the defeat by the republicans of the so-called ring, expressed the opinion that the fire had its origin in some dire political plot. Certain it is that the fire was of a very mysterious character, as there was nothing inflammable or likely to cause flames in the office where it originated.

DEATH ENDS HER TROUBLES.

SUICITE OF MRS. MILLER, THE PRETTY YOUNG

CHICAGO ILL., April 13. -Mrs. Amelia Miller, the pretty young widow who was brought into unpleasant prominence during the inqury resulting from the finding of a dead infant at sulting from the finding of a dead intent at 2301 Wabash avenue, has probably ended her troubles by suicide. That she was impressed with an exaggerated idea of the notoriety brought upon her is shown by letters in which she bids farewell to friends and children and declares her intention to kill herself. The police believe the young woman's remains will be found off Lincoln Park and are dragging the lake at that point.

BELTZHOOVER CHAIRMAN.

CONVENING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIO COVENTION.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 13.-As early as 10 o'clock this morning delegates to the democratic state convention began to assemble in the Harrisburg Opera House. Every safeguard was thrown around the distribution of tickets for the reason that it was feared that those not friendly to Mr. Harrity and the state administration might counterfeit the tickets and fill the hall with an undesirable class of visitors. When the convention was called to order the lower floor of the Opera House was filled up by the 463 delegates and the two galleries were packed full of spectators. No convention held here in years has attracted such crowded galleries.

galleries.

The convention was rapped to order by Chairman Wright at 12:10 and the business was formally begun by the reading of the call of the convention issued January 30. The calling of the roll of delegates occupied forty-five minutes, many substitutions being made. John R. Read of Philadelphia nominated Congressman Relitzhoover for temporary chairman and he was elected unanimously.

JEALOUSY NERVED HIS ARM.

JAMES M. BARRY, A VARIETY ACTOR IN BOSTON, SHOOTS HIS WIFE.

Boston, April 18.-James M. Barry, a variety actor at the World's Theater, attempted to kill his wife early this morning at their boarding house by shooting her in the back, and as a result she is in a dying condition at the City Hospital. Jealousy was the cause. GIVEN POISONED CANDY.

PORT HURON, MICH., April 18.-Some days ago Miss Nellie McClayton died, and her death was said to have been caused by drugged candy given her by Ben Mackey to obtain an undue influence over her. Mackey was arundue influence over her. Mackey was arrested and a post-mortem ordered. It is now,
asserted that Mackey gave her the drug to get
rid of her. Should the coroner's inquest find
Mackey responsible for the girl's death, it is
thought very probable the prisoner will share
the same fate as did Martin a year ago.

BALLOT BOXES LOCKED UP.

TROY, N. Y., April 13.-The Cohoes Republiscans elect Henry A. Strong Mayor and Wm. B. Leroy Police Commissioner, and carry two of the five wards, with a tie on alderman in another. The ballot boxes of the fourth ward, which were taken to the police station when special policemen raided the polling places resterday afternoon, are still held there.

The excitement caused by the seizure of the

ballot boxes by special policemen was unpre-cedented in Cohoes. Infuriated citizens througed the streets and threatened the police and police stations. The public wrath was great and was freely expressed. ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF ST. FRANCIS'

NUNS DEAD. DUBUQUE, Iowa, April 13.-Mother Mary Zavier, superior of the St. Francis nuns, died in this city yesterday. She was one of the founders of the order, the only superior it ever had, and came to Iowa with other members of

the order when they were driven out of Prussia in 1875. She was sixty-one years old

OUTRAGES BY RUSTLERS. OWANA, NER. April 13 .- A special to the Bee from Gillette, Wyo., says: A courier arrived from Gillette, wyo., asy.

from Buffalo last evening saying there are
about 300 armed men in the vicinity of Buffalo.
Yesterday a party of seventy-five rustlers took
a man from a stage coach. What has become man from a stage coach. What of him or who he was is unknown.

SALE OF THOROUGHERED TROTTERS INDEPENDENCE, IOWA. April 13 .- C. W. Williams has sold to the Cloverdale Stock Farm, Philadelphia, Can't Tell, a full sister to Axtell and five head of well bred trotters. Price private.

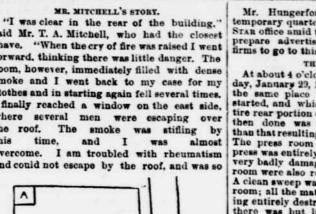
STRONGLY ENDORSED THE PRESIDENT. REED CITY, MICH., April 13.—Resolutions strongly favoring Harrison's administration were adopted at the Republican Congressional Convention of the Eleventh District. T. Bates of Traverse City and George P. Stone of Ithaca were elected delegates to the National Conven-tion, and A. A. Bleaseley of Kalkaska and F. H. Dodds of Isabella, alternates.

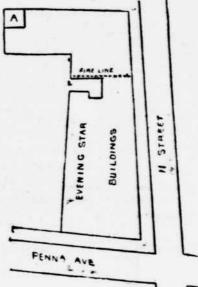
MURDERED ABOUT A NICKEL. KINGFISHER, OK., April 18 .- C. C. Davis, a

gambler running a crap game over the Wisasin saloon in this city, shot and killed a sollier of troop K. Fifth Cavalry, on duty here, at a nickel, resulting in a desperate fight. An autopsy was held and the body sent to Fort Reno. Sheriff Clamp has Davis in jail for murder and a soldier named Fisk and a civilan named Kirby are held as witne

THINKS IT A "COLOSSAL FAKE." A story from New York was printed this morning to the effect that a Brazilian in New York named Antonio Hilario de Caehlo had sent a challenge to Senor de Mendonca, sent a challenge to Senor de Mendonea, the Brazilian minister, feeling aggrieved by some publication. A Star reporter called at the residence of the Brazilian minister this afternoon. Mr. Mario de Mendonea a son of the minister, said that his father had nothing to say in the matter, as he regarded it all as a "colossal fake." No challenge had been received, nor had any ambassador from the enraged Brazilian been heard from and nothing of the sort is looked for.

THE GRAHAM CASE.—The record of the proceedings in the case of Commander J. D. Gra-ham, U. S. N., recently tried by court martial at Richmond, Va., was received at the War De partment yesterday, but the sentence will no a be made public until the case shall have been acted on by the Secretary of the Navy.





overcome that I could only stand at the window and yell. After what seemed an age a ladder was run up to me and I came down. As I left the room the flames were crackling and blazing in the rear portion. Mr. T. R. Faulkner was one of the four who escaped by means of the trap door in the roof

Mr. Wm. W. McCullom was also in the rear when the alarm was given. "In three minutes he said, "the room was filled with dense smoke. Escape by the stairs was cut off, and, after a hard struggle, we reached the roof."

ESCAPED BY A LADDER.

several lives in my opinion! W. N. Croggon also escaped by the same

pervision the subscription and mailing depart-

tion whether one of the finest collection of ad

prepare advertising matter for the various firms to go to this evening's "paper." THE FIRE OF 1885. At about 4 o'clock on the morning of Thurs-